



IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

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**Safer, Stronger,
Smarter**

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REBUILD IOWA DAY AT THE CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS RECOVERY EFFORTS

The Rebuild Iowa Office sponsored “Rebuild Iowa Day” at the Capitol Rotunda January 14 from 9 a.m. to noon to help inform Iowans about the state’s disaster recovery efforts from the 2008 floods and tornadoes.

Representatives from the local, state and federal level spoke with those in attendance, sharing specific recovery stories discussing future goals in rebuilding from the severe storms, tornadoes and floods of 2008.

Attendees were able to visit booths covering the following topics:

- Individual and Business Case Management
- Flood Insurance/Flood Mapping
- Smart Planning/Infrastructure
- Water Resource Coordinating Council Recommendations
- Community Representatives



Representatives set up displays to educate Iowans about the 2008 disaster recovery effort.

- Disaster Funding
- Housing/Buyouts

For more information about the state's recovery and rebuilding efforts, please visit the Rebuild Iowa Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

JANUARY QUARTERLY REPORT PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT RECOVERY EFFORT

Earlier this month, the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) publicly released its January Quarterly Report. The report provides an update on the progress and challenges that remain in Iowa’s recovery from the

devastating 2008 floods and tornadoes. The report also lists specific examples and updated statistics on how disaster-assistance programs are helping Iowans and their impacted communities.

The RIO’S 168-page January Quarterly Report continues to detail the Office’s economic recovery strategy in the categories of housing; business; workforce development;

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QUARTERLY REPORT (continued from page 1)



The RIO's January Quarterly Report discusses rebuilding and mitigation efforts including the construction of saferooms (like the one to be built in Waverly, groundbreaking pictured above) following the storms, tornadoes and floods of 2008.

infrastructure investments; individual services and guidance; local economic recovery; smart planning; mitigation planning; flood plain and watershed management; flood plain mapping; quality of life; and emergency management. As the 2010 Legislative Session gets underway, this report offers a number of recommendations that have been submitted to legislators as ways to better plan for

and mitigate damages from future disasters. These include recommendations from the Water Resources Coordinating Council on flood plain management, recommendations on ways to promote an increase in the purchase of flood insurance and Smart Planning Principles that should be considered so communities can rebuild sustainably.

“As the RIO continues to coordinate the state’s recovery effort from the largest disaster to ever hit Iowa, progress is being made,” said Lt. General Ron Dardis, RIO’s executive director. “While no one will deny the road to recovery is long and tedious, there is evidence that Iowans are starting to once again establish a sense of normalcy. Meanwhile, the RIO knows the job is far from over and maintains its commitment to helping ease the burden on impacted communities, businesses and families.”

The January report includes updated charts showing the flow of federal and state disaster recovery funding to the state, counties, cities and individuals affected by the 2008 disasters.

The report was prepared for Governor Culver and Iowa legislators in accordance with House File 64. This is the RIO’s fourth Quarterly Report since the Office was formalized last year. To access the report, as well as the RIO’s previous reports, visit the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE BUILDING IN IOWA

Iowa’s Center on Sustainable Communities (COSC) is filling a vital role in Iowa’s recovery from the 2008 summer disasters by teaching Iowans to build safer, stronger and smarter through green practices.

In August, the COSC entered an agreement with the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) to deliver “Re-Building a Sustainable Iowa” curriculum to regions hardest hit by the natural disasters. The curriculum used by COSC, a non-profit agency created in 2005, teaches professionals who work in residential, commercial and energy-specific industries how to build green or become more energy efficient with

their practices.

Training includes general introductions to green building; detailed training on heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; foundations, framing; materials selection; roofing; assessing and prioritizing rehabilitation for existing homes; historic preservation; windows, doors and insulation; and stormwater management. The training is available for builders, contractors and owners of residential and commercial properties.

Two series of workshops are coming up in January and February 2010, and will feature on-site training focusing

on three affordable green demonstration homes currently being built in West Union, Tripoli and Volga.

Complete information on the “Affordable Green Building Training: West Union” workshop series schedule, and other planned workshops across Iowa, can be found at www.icosc.com. Registration is required and seating is limited. To register for either class, contact Leslie Berckes at COSC by calling (515) 707-2787 or e-mailing her at leslie@icosc.com.

COSC officials are currently working on planning more than 30 additional workshops in Spring 2010.

IOWANS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN 2010 CENSUS

The United States Census Bureau will be mailing questionnaires to all residential addresses across Iowa in late February and March in order to count all persons living in the country as of April 1, 2010. Taken every ten years, achieving a complete and accurate count is important as the information collected is used to allocate billions of dollars in government resources and to determine boundaries for political representation. All information collected regarding particular households is confidential as specified by US law.

Your part in the census is as easy as taking 10 minutes to fill out your census form and mail it back. The 2010 census questionnaire

United States®
Census
2010

is one of the shortest in history and consists of 10 questions. If you would like to learn more about the Census, would like to be more involved in the Census, or your household does not receive a questionnaire by mid-March, please visit the State Data Center of Iowa for contact information and other resources at www.iowadatacenter.org/2010census.

THE RIO WORKS TO IMPROVE FEDERAL DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAMS, POLICIES

Following the historic storms, tornadoes and floods of 2008, the Rebuild Iowa Office developed recommendations to help improve not only state, but federal disaster recovery programs and policies.

The recommendations include the following:

- Provide flexible and predictable disaster-track funding for a set threshold of major disasters
- Allow for a shared, real-time data system for all levels of government
- Coordinate damage and needs assessments
- Provide resources and support for immediate case management
- Change the structure of hazard mitigation funding

The recommendations drafted by the RIO have been shared with Iowa's congressional delegation as well as representatives of several federal agencies, including FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, both of whom

have visited the state and learned about Iowa's disaster recovery first-hand.

On Jan. 6, 2010, the RIO, along with multiple local, state and federal agencies participated in a day-long meeting with the National Commission on Children and Disasters, which is based in Washington, D.C. Commission Chairperson Mark Shriver and Commission members Sheila Leslie and David Schonfeld hosted the meetings at the Linn County Health Department in Cedar Rapids. Topics such as school recovery, mental health services, child welfare, child care, disaster case management and long-term community recovery were discussed in a roundtable setting. Officials from the public and non-profit sectors took part in the conversations throughout the day. The Commission intends to include its findings from the meetings into the development of a national recovery framework and the Commission's next report to President Obama and Congress due in October 2010.

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"The RIO knows [recovery] is far from over and maintains its commitment to helping ease the burden on impacted communities, businesses and families."

*-RIO Executive Director
Lt. General Ron Dardis*

The Rebuild Iowa Office



The Rebuild Iowa Office is tasked with ensuring that the state rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before the 2008 disasters. The RIO is supported by a professional staff made up of existing state employees and hired full-time staff to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

www.rio.iowa.gov

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RECOVERY RECOMMENDATIONS (continued from page 3)

On Jan. 8, 2010, the RIO's Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis participated in another federal roundtable, hosted by the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. The meeting brought together stakeholders from various disaster-impacted states to gather feedback on the national response framework; state and local capacity, community planning, and technical assistance; nonprofit and private sector capacity; economic and environmental resilience and sustainability; and the review of federal programs. The purpose of this session was to provide the Obama administration and federal agencies ideas on how to improve and reform specific federal programs essential for long-term disaster recovery. At this meeting, Lt. General Dardis presented Iowa's federal recommendations for improvements to the national recovery framework. The feedback provided at this session will be used to draft recommendations to the Obama Administration, which are due April 2010. More than a dozen staff from the White House, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Homeland Security and FEMA, were in attendance.

As another means of feeding into this national conversation, the RIO is also partnering with HUD and Congressman Loebbeck for an Iowa Disaster Recovery Learning Conference to be held Jan. 29,



Lt. General Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director, speaks at a press conference in Cedar Rapids for the National Commission on Children and Disasters.

2010. The conference will bring together representatives from non-profit organizations, voluntary agencies, faith-based organizations and community foundations active in both Iowa and Gulf Coast recovery. The group will discuss recommended changes to local, state and federal recovery efforts and suggest best practices going forward. HUD plans to use these recommendations to help inform their work on the National Disaster Recovery Framework.

Clip & Save...

Federal Agencies

General FEMA Information	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
FEMA Fraud Detection	800.323.8603
National Flood Insurance Program	800.427.4661
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.427.5593
Social Security Administration	800.772.1213
U.S. Small Business Administration	800.659.2955
Internal Revenue Service	800.829.1040
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.829.4059
Tax-Related Disaster Relief	866.562.5227
Housing & Urban Development Hotline	800.669.9777
Department of Veterans Affairs	800.827.0648

Iowa Contacts

For up-to-date disaster and recovery information visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

If you have questions about consumer fraud, contact Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division
888.777.4590 or 515.281.5926

To volunteer or make donations, contact:
Iowa Concern Hotline 800.447.1985

Disaster Unemployment Information 800.JOB.IOWA

Iowa Mortgage Help 877.622.4866 or
www.IowaMortgageHelp.com

Ticket to Hope crisis counseling
(call the Iowa Concern Hotline) 800.447.1985

Iowa Other Needs Assistance 800.659.2955

Other Needs Assistance 866.434.4692